

R 301133Z JAN 86
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029781

FOLLOWING STATE 029781 DTD JAN 30, 1986 SENT ACTION
ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS, INFO LONDON, PARIS,
BRUSSELS, BONN, TOKYO, SEOUL, CAIRO, SECDEF, DIA,
CENTCOM MACDILL AFB, USEUCOM VAIHINGEN, JSOC FT BRAGG,
BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 029781

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: PGOV PREL UG
SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN UGANDA

¶1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

¶2. FOLLOWING FOR POST'S INFORMATION IS TEXT OF
INFORMATION MEMO DATED 1/28/86 ON DEVELOPMENTS IN
UGANDA.

¶3. BEGIN TEXT. SUMMARY: SOUTHERN GUERRILLAS HAVE WON
THE CAPITAL AND HEARTLAND OF UGANDA AND HAVE THE
MILITARY EDGE ON DISSIDENT NORTHERN TRIBES. THE NEW
HEAD OF STATE IS A FERVENT NATIONALIST WHO LIKELY WILL
COMBINE THIRD-WORLD RHETORIC WITH PRAGMATIC POLICIES.
END SUMMARY.

THE 5,000-MAN NATIONAL RESISTANCE ARMY (NRA) NOW
CONTROLS THE SOUTHERN HALF OF UGANDA AND GAINS GROUND
DAILY FROM FORMER GOVERNMENT TROOPS IN DISORDERLY
RETREAT. LONGER TERM, NRA FORCES LIKELY WILL FACE

LOW-GRADE BUSH WARFARE FROM DISSIDENT NORTHERN TRIBES.
NRA'S SUPERIOR DISCIPLINE AND ORGANIZATION, AND ITS
CONTROL OVER THE CAPITAL AND ECONOMIC HEART OF UGANDA,
SHOULD GIVE IT A DECISIVE EDGE. NRA ESCHEWS THE HUMAN
RIGHTS ABUSES OF FORMER MILITARY LEADERS AND HAS BEEN
MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN THEY IN WINNING THE POPULATION'S
AFFECTIONS.

ALL 170 AMERICANS IN UGANDA ARE REPORTED SAFE AND
KAMPALA IS RETURNING TO NORMAL WITH RESTORATION OF
POWER, WATER AND TELEPHONE, AND REOPENING OF MARKETS.
IN CONTRAST TO THE BEHAVIOR OF GOVERNMENT TROOPS AFTER
THE JULY 85 COUP, NRA SOLDIERS ARE REPORTED TO BE
WELLDISCIPLINED AND POPULAR WITH TOWNSPEOPLE.

AMBASSADOR HOUDEK HAS MET WITH NRA COMMANDER YOWERI
MUSEVENI AND FEELS WE CAN WORK WITH THE NEW REGIME.
MUSEVENI MAY BE A STRIDENT INTERLOCUTOR, BUT HIS
GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE INIMICAL TO U.S. INTERESTS.

MUSEVENI'S IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION IS MURKY, COMBINING
FERVENT NATIONALISM, THIRD WORLD RHETORIC AND PRAGMATIC
OPPORTUNISM. HE DECLARED TO THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY
THAT HIS FOREIGN POLICY WOULD BE NON-ALIGNED AND THAT
HE WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND
ISRAEL. LIKE MANY UGANDAN FACTIONS, HE HAS SOUGHT
LIBYAN ASSISTANCE, BUT WAS MOTIVATED PROBABLY MORE BY
OPPORTUNISM THAN IDEOLOGICAL AFFILIATION. NRA
REPRESENTATIVES HAVE STRESSED TO US THEIR DESIRE FOR
GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

IN HIS WRITINGS, MUSEVENI HAS FAVORED ACTIVE STATE
GUIDANCE OVER THE ECONOMY. BUT HE HAS ALSO RECOGNIZED
THAT FREE ENTERPRISE BASED ON SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE
IS THE KEY TO UGANDA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. MUSEVENI
SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WILL WELCOME FOREIGN ASSISTANCE IN
DEVELOPING PRODUCTIVE ENTERPRISES. OUR AMBASSADOR IS
ANXIOUS TO RESUME THE AID PROGRAM AND ENGAGE MUSEVENI
IN DIALOGUE ON UGANDA'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
EVOLUTION. END TEXT.

¶4. KAMPALA MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.
UNQUOTE

SHULTZ